During 1996 to ameliorate the living condition of slum dwellers the Central Government launched a scheme namely National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), under which the funds are provided by the Central Government in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for provision of basic amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community bath, widening and paving existing lanes, sewers, community,latrines, street light etc. including provision of community centres, to be used for pre-school education, non-formal education, adult education, recreational activities etc. in improving the condition of slum dwellers in States/Union Territories.

A scheme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which seeks to provide gainful employment to the unemployed and underemployed poor, as per guidelines of the scheme, is under implementation since 1.12.1997.

A new scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been launched in December, 2001 to provide shelter/shelter up-gradation to the slum dwellers living below poverty line including economically weaker sections. This scheme has a component for providing community toilet facility also to slum dwellers. The Central Government provides subsidy to the projects of the State Governments to the extent of 50% while the balance amount is to be met by the State Governments either through loans from HUDCO or other agencies or contribution from any other source.

Demolition of Jhuggis in Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi

3628. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have demolished several Jhuggis in Raghubir Nagar, 'F' Block, New Delhi during last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several shops in the complex of Durga Mandir in 'F' Block of Raghubir Nagar have also been demolished;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government intend to demolish the unauthorised land which has been encroached by Executive Committee of the said temple; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Slum and J. J. Department (MCD) has reported that

2979 jhuggis have been removed in 'F' Block, Raghubir Nagar. However, there were no shops in the complex of Durga Mandir and hence the question of their demolition dose not arise.

Slum and JJ Department (MCD) has also informed that Executive Committee of Durga Mandir has encroached Government land by constructing a temple at 'F' Block, Raghubir Nagar. They have approached Government of NCT of Delhi seeking permission to remove the said unauthorized construction/ encroachment.

Potable water to residents of Delhi

†3629. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not able to provide even potable water to the residents of Delhi and due to this people are forced to drink contaminated water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that various types of diseases are on the constant increase due to consumption of this water; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are going to take to provide potable water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Delhi Jal Board has reported that drinking water supplied by it to the residents of Delhi is potable and conforms to the BIS quality norms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

3630. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Poverty Alleviation Programmes taken up for tackling poverty during the year 2002-2003; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.